

Remarks/Arguments:

I. Status

The Final Office Action dated July 13, 2006 (the "Office Action") has been carefully reviewed. In the Office Action, claims 1-11 were rejected and claims 12-17 and 19-21 were allowed. Claims 2-11 have been amended and claim 1 has been canceled. Accordingly, claims 2-17 and 19-21 are pending in this application. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

II. The Rejection of Claims 2-11 under 103(a)

Claims 2-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,447,448 B1 to Ishikawa et al. Claims 2-11 have been amended to depend from claim 12 and to reflect the appropriate antecedent basis. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. Additionally, the Examiner has indicated that claim 12 is allowable. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-11 are allowable.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and request a prompt and favorable action on the merits.

Respectfully Submitted,
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